



R. ISTITUTO DI STUDI SUPERIORI
IN FIRENZE

DIREZIONE DEL MUSEO ZOOLOGICO
DEI VERTEBRATI

34
Firenze, 19 Via Romana

li 7th June 1902

My dear Colleague,

I have just read in the current number of "Nature" of your safe return, together with Mr. F. J. Gillen to Melbourne from your prolonged sojourn and investigation amongst the aboriginal tribes of the interior of North Central Australia. Allow me personally and in the name of the Anthropological Society of Italy, of which I have the honor to be Vice-President, to offer to you both our heartiest congratulations on the success of your mission, the progress of which we have followed with intense interest, whilst we now look forward with keen expectation to the publication of the results of your observations amongst those remnants of primitive Man.

I need scarcely tell you how greatly I am personally interested in the subject, and that your magnificent book "The Native Tribes of Central Australia" is very often in requisition with me. I have no doubt that in the expedition which you have now completed, you have been able to gather new and important facts regarding the Ethnology and Social organisation of the tribes which you studied during your

former expedition, and have now come in contact with other tribes hitherto unknown to Science. The thorough ethnological investigation of those primitive representatives of Man, such as you and Mr. Gillen, and I may add Dr. Roth, I have already done in so admirable a manner, is of inestimable value on account of the rapid changes which ever encroaching civilization will soon cause.

I suppose that on this as on your former expedition into the heart of Australia, you have formed rich collections of the implements & weapons &c. of the Aborigines, and that such collections are naturally destined to Australian Museums, and I do not know whether or not you have any duplicates and can dispose of them. Should this be the case, I should be very greatly obliged to you if you could let me have any spare specimens of the stone implements, weapons &c. in use among the North Central Australian tribes, and this in exchange for specimens of a like nature from other countries if you care to have them. I make you this request because for the last 25 years I have been forming for our National Museum of Ethnology a collection of typical specimens illustrating the Stone Age in all countries from the Quaternary to the present period. I have in this been fairly successful, but have nothing or little

from that portion of Australia which you have explored. Hoping to have the pleasure of giving you a welcome in Florence some day, believe me, Dear Colleague, with all best wishes,

Yours very truly
Henry H. Giglioli
Regius professor of Zoology in the University of Florence.

Professor Baldwin Spencer F.R.S.
Melbourne